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# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022-23

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### Fifty years in the service of Indian policymaking

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A leading public policy  
think tank

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Conducting research in  
multiple disciplines

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Contributing to a more  
robust public discourse

# Foreword

The Centre for Policy Research (CPR) is entering its fiftieth year in November 2023. As President, it is my privilege to write the foreword to the annual report ahead of this important moment. This is a year for CPR to look back and celebrate its contributions to the service of Indian policymaking and its tradition of maintaining a robust and evidence based conversation between the government, policymakers and wider citizenry.

But even as we reflect on and commemorate the past, there looms a sombre uncertainty over our institutional future. These are difficult times for institution building and maintaining the culture of academic and intellectual freedom in India. Through the past year, CPR has faced enormous, repeated challenges that have tested our institutional mettle.

In September 2022, the Income Tax authorities undertook a tax survey at the CPR premises. This was followed by a suspension of our license to receive Foreign Funding (FCRA), a decision by the Indian Council of Social Science Research to temporarily withhold our grant and the withdrawal of our tax exemption status. Each of these actions has left the institution in a precarious financial position. I would like to reiterate that CPR is in complete compliance with the law. The institution is routinely scrutinised and audited by government authorities including the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. In response to these actions, we have sought redressal through the Delhi High Court. Our work and institutional purpose is to advance our constitutional goals and protect our constitutional guarantees. CPR is absolutely confident that the matter will be resolved speedily, in fairness and in the spirit of our constitutional values.

But even as we seek swift resolution to these institutional challenges, we have, as you will see in this report, steadfastly remained productive and resolutely devoted to our vision of making meaningful contributions to policymaking in India—a contribution that is perhaps even more urgent against the backdrop of the tumultuous global environment, the polycrisis it has brought with it and the crucial socioeconomic and political transitions underway in India.

We have remained strong and true to CPR's institutional spirit of producing high-quality, rigorous, policy-relevant research, entirely because of the unwavering support we have received from you, our friends and partners. And so, allow me to begin our fiftieth anniversary celebrations with a tribute to all of you. Thank you for helping CPR stay committed to the cause of inclusive, sustainable, evidence-based policy in India and above all, to the spirit of independent and democratic debate and dialogue.



As always, in this reporting year too, we remained prolific. Our scholars produced 3 books, 34 journal articles, 16 working papers, 42 policy briefs, and over 500 opinion pieces in the mainstream media through the year. We also organised and participated in 63 national and international events and held the CPR Dialogues 2022 featuring 18 panels. Importantly, we celebrated landmark anniversaries for two of CPR's largest and oldest research initiatives, the Accountability Initiative and the Scaling Cities for India Initiative.

The Accountability Initiative, whose research has been at the forefront of innovating to deepen citizen engagement in governance through the lens of social policy and public finance management celebrated its fifteenth anniversary. The Accountability Initiative is widely credited for experimenting with large scale government expenditure tracking surveys (PAISA surveys) that track the flow of funds and expenditures at the last mile, highlighting critical implementation gaps along the way. It is also well-known for the budget briefs that have established themselves as the primary resource to understand the budget, expenditure and outcome data on India's flagship national welfare schemes as well as its cutting edge research on elementary education reforms.

The Scaling Cities for India Initiative (SCI-FI) celebrated its tenth anniversary. SCI-FI, over its decade-long research practice, has made a significant mark in areas critical to India's urban transition from urban sanitation (particularly faecal sludge management) and urban housing. They received a fitting anniversary gift when they were awarded for the "Best Non-Profit Engagement Model in Sanitation: Rural and Urban" at the 6th edition of the ISC-FICCI

Sanitation Awards at the India Sanitation Conference in December 2022. The award recognized SCI-FI's work on faecal sludge management in Dhenkanal, Odisha. The initiative has been working with the Odisha government since 2014, offering technical expertise to the state and local-level administration to achieve safely managed sanitation.

Awards and celebrations apart, CPR scholars also opened new areas of research and policy engagement, critical to the contemporary policy environment. Notable amongst these was the Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment's foray into the arena of heat mapping in response to the growing regularity of heat waves in India. The initiative produced an important report titled *How is India Adapting to Heatwaves? An Assessment of Heat Action Plans with Insights for Transformative Climate Action*. The report conducted a first-of-its-kind critical review of 37 heat action plans across 18 states in India and suggested improvements to enhance their effectiveness in addressing the impacts of extreme heat.

Additionally, CPR entered a partnership with the French National Institute of Sustainable Development (IRD) and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), India, to study and evaluate Indian Smart Cities. CPR also initiated a new research partnership with the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, through its Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies & Development Studies (TREADS) initiative. Under this project, CPR will undertake three key research studies: planning for the management of urban waterbodies; interstate cooperation for river rejuvenation; and best practice lessons from European experiences for the Namami Gange Programme.

Over the years, CPR has worked very closely with state governments, and in 2022–23, these partnerships only deepened. From Odisha to Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, CPR expanded its footprint at the state government level, working closely with states on issues as wide ranging as urban governance, health, social protection, data analysis and human resource management. But perhaps the most important contribution CPR has made at the state level is to push state governments to innovate with building capacity and strengthening their training systems for state administrative cadres, which are critical but, unfortunately, deeply ignored in our debates on state capacity and civil service reform. We worked closely with the governments of Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya to implement innovative training pedagogies for new batches of state civil service officers. In Meghalaya, we took this a step further to initiate a longitudinal study of freshly recruited state cadre

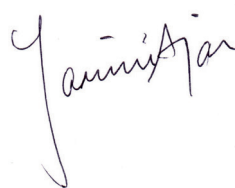
officers. This study will be a significant contribution to the emerging literature in India on administrative reforms.

These are but a few highlights of CPR's work, and I hope they will give you a glimpse of the depth and range of our intellectual and policy engagements and encourage you to further explore publications in this report. As we begin our fiftieth-year celebrations, we will be sharing with you archives of our research and policy experience. I also hope this will give you a deeper understanding of the contributions CPR has made over the decades but also of the evolution of policymaking and its successes and challenges in contemporary India.

None of our work would have been possible without the steadfast support of the CPR governing board under the leadership of Dr Meenakshi Gopinath. Their guidance and unflinching commitment to excellence, scholarly rigour and independence has been this institution's moral compass and for this, we remain deeply grateful. Our fabulous finance and administration team led by Anup Roy and Alaknanda Jain has been the backbone of the organization. We also owe deep gratitude to our communications team led by Hemali Sodhi who have not only put together this wonderful annual report but also helped CPR remain true to its purpose by being active and engaged in the public sphere.

This has been a bittersweet year for CPR in many ways but perhaps the most difficult moment was a consequence of our financial challenges that required us to bid goodbye to several colleagues, especially young research associates and budding scholars, who have been the life and soul of CPR over the years. Their spirit, energy and passion for public service are what has kept the institution and its scholars energised and pushed us to break new ground. The walls of the building feel quiet without them, but their contributions to public life and policy debates has only strengthened the institution's resolve to soldier on, to persevere for a bright future.

Once again, thank you for your continued engagement and encouragement. It is what empowers all of us at CPR.



**Yamini Aiyar**  
President & Chief Executive,  
Centre for Policy Research

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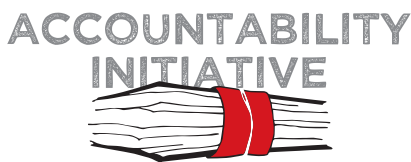
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**The Accountability Initiative** works on strengthening transparency and accountability in governance through evidence-based research on state capabilities and factors affecting efficient delivery of public services in India. With a vision to enable responsive governance, the initiative works on increasing citizen engagement in policymaking and implementation.

**Research areas:** Economy; Education; Governance, Accountability and State Capacity; Health and Nutrition; Sanitation



**The India Infrastructures and Ecologies Program** seeks to advance multidisciplinary and applied research in the political ecology of large infrastructure projects. The initiative conducts research at the intersections of infrastructure development, natural resource management and legal governance frameworks at the transnational, national and state levels.

**Research areas:** Environmental Law; Justice

**The Initiative on Cities, Economy and Society** engages with the process of urban transition in India, tracking its evolution in spatial, economic and social terms. In particular, the initiative focuses on how urbanization is managed and how it affects people's engagement with the state.

**Research areas:** Urbanization

**The Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment** aims to stimulate an informed debate on the laws, policies and institutions shaping climate, energy and environmental governance in India. It focuses on climate policy and institutions, the political economy of electricity in India and air quality governance.

**Research areas:** Air Pollution; Climate Change; Environmental Law and Justice; Energy and Electricity

**The Land Rights Initiative** aims to build systematic knowledge on land rights issues in the country. The initiative's research focuses on the constitutional right to property, land acquisition, land rights in scheduled areas and mapping land legislation in India.

**Research areas:** Land Rights; Water



**The Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI)** Initiative aims to better understand 'governance scale' in Indian cities in tandem with 'sector specific socio-economic scales'. Its research focuses on two key areas: land, housing and planning and water and sanitation.

**Research areas:** Land Rights; Sanitation; Urbanization; Water





**The State Capacity Initiative** is an interdisciplinary research and practice program focused on addressing the challenges of the Indian state in the 21st century. It focuses on the changing roles of the state, institutional design, implementation and administrative capacity, the challenges of regulatory and fiscal capacity, and the changing relations between society, politics and state capacity in India.

**Research areas:** Agriculture; Economy; Education; Governance, Accountability and State Capacity; Indian Politics; Sanitation; Water



**The Jobs Initiative** works on research aimed at finding solutions to employment challenges related to informality, the restructuring of labour markets due to the impact of technology, migration, and differentiated impacts of all these forces based on gender and age. A partnership with The JustJobs Network, this initiative provides insights on how government policies can create jobs and support workers.

**Research areas:** Economy

**The Politics Initiative** provides research to understand the rapid changes in India's political economy landscape. It studies the changing competitive political party system in India, political and legislative institutions, the ideological world views and preferences of political actors, electoral behaviour, and incentive structures and choices that shape policy decisions.

**Research areas:** Economy; Indian Politics; Urbanization

**The Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies and Development Studies (TREADS) Initiative** is a cluster of research projects pursuing research on transboundary river water governance issues. The initiative also engages with the research themes of federalism and the politics of infrastructure development such as dams, roads and smart cities.

**Research areas:** Water



# CPR'S RESEARCH AREAS



# Agriculture



Image Source: iitk.ac.in

*Using a multidisciplinary lens, CPR scholars have sought to understand the dynamics of India's rural economy with a specific focus on agriculture and bringing empirical evidence to the discourse on the functioning and challenges of agricultural markets.*

## Select Public Engagements

- Mekhala Krishnamurthy and Harish Damodaran spoke about Budget 2023 and its impact on rural economy and agriculture in an online discussion, "What Does Budget 2023 Do for the Rural Economy and Agriculture?", in February 2023. They argued that this budget assumes that the period of distress in the Indian economy was over, and that the economy has totally recovered as is visible from the cuts to the MGNREGA scheme.
- Harish Damodaran wrote an article titled "The Most Populist of All Budgets" in the *Indian Express* in January 2023.
- Harish Damodaran wrote an article titled "Rural Economy Indicators" in the *Indian Express* in March 2023.
- Harish Damodaran, Sudhir Sitapati, Amit Basole and Mekhala Krishnamurthy were part of a discussion titled "A New Policy Imagination for the Rural Economy" at the CPR Dialogues in September 2022.

# Air Pollution



Image Source: who.int

*Six years ago, following a series of seminars, CPR faculty launched a new research programme called **Clearing the Air?** to promote sustained and informed public discourse around the data, impacts, sources and policy challenges involved in clearing India's air. This year, one of the key areas was examining the state of India's pollution control boards and their counterparts in union territories.*

Shibani Ghosh, Arunesh Karkun, Sharon Mathew, Prannv Dhawan and Bhargav Krishna of the Initiative on Climate, Energy and Environment (ICEE) coauthored a series of working papers titled *The State of India's Pollution Control Boards*. State pollution control boards (SPCBs) and their counterparts in union territories, pollution control committees (PCCs), are responsible for several key functions in curbing air pollution. These include granting consents,

setting emission and effluent standards, monitoring compliance of industry with these standards, and enforcement action in case of violations.

In these working papers, the authors explore some of the key institutional issues faced by SPCBs and PCCs in the Indo-Gangetic Plain. They examine the institutional structure and capacity of pollution control boards of 10 states/union

territories in the Indo-Gangetic Plain: Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.

The findings reveal significant shortcomings, such as high vacancy rates and inadequate representation of individuals with expertise in air quality management. They also highlight the need to reform India's environmental regulatory institutions to improve air quality and reduce its negative impact on our health.

## Policy Engagements

- As part of a public consultation process, CPR-ICEE submitted comments to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) on why the proposed amendments to the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981, need to be reconsidered.

## Select Public Engagements

- Bhargav Krishna spoke on unpacking the complexities of the air pollution problem at the annual convening of the Clean Air Collective.
- Shibani Ghosh with C.K. Mishra, Ajay Vir Jakhar and Jayashree Nandi participated in a panel discussion titled "Clearing the Air: Addressing India's Air Quality Crisis" at the CPR Dialogues in September 2022.

# Climate Change



Image Source: thethirdpole.net

*CPR faculty have long been at the forefront of global and domestic debates on climate change, and CPR is home to some of India's leading voices on climate change. This year's highlights included research on heat action plans, developing The Climate Futures Project, engagement at COP27, and interpreting the results of energy emissions modelling studies in India.*

## Select Policy Engagements

- Aditya Valiathan Pillai and Tamanna Dalal coauthored a CPR report titled *How is India Adapting to Heatwaves? An Assessment of Heat Action Plans with Insights for Transformative Climate Action*. The report conducted a first-of-its-kind critical review of 37 heat action plans across 18 states in India and suggested improvements to enhance their effectiveness in addressing the impacts of extreme heat. The report also represented a new area of focus for CPR-ICEE, centred on climate adaptation and the ways in which states can prepare for adverse climate impacts. The findings of the report received extensive media coverage.
- Navroz K. Dubash spoke at the G20 Development Working Group side event titled “Infusing New LiFE into Green Development”.
- Suravee Nayak was part of a G20 Working Group meeting on “Principles and Guidelines for Just and Inclusive Energy Transition”.
- Navroz K. Dubash spoke at a technical dialogue-focused exchange titled “International Cooperation on Holistic and Integrated Approaches” held at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh. The exchange was part of the first global stocktaking process under the Paris Agreement. After COP27, Dubash held a session with members of Parliament to discuss the outcomes of the summit.

- ICEE, along with IIT Delhi, was the overall anchor institution and technical knowledge partner for the Long-Term Low Emissions and Development Strategy (LT-LEDS), India’s first submission of a long-term climate strategy.
- ICEE researchers provided inputs to the government of Madhya Pradesh in drafting the state’s action plan on climate change.
- Aditya Valiathan Pillai presented findings from the CPR report *How is India Adapting to Heatwaves? An Assessment of Heat Action Plans with Insights for Transformative Climate Action* at the National Disaster Management Authority’s annual preparatory meeting on heatwaves.

Pillai also conducted training on the topic “India’s People, Economy and Government in a More Destructive Climate” for scientists and technologists working in the government sector at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie in March 2023.

## Select Public Engagements

- At the CPR Dialogues 2022, ICEE put together panel discussions on India’s G20 presidency and its role in shaping the global energy transition, the challenges involved in clearing India’s air, focus areas for future air pollution policymaking, and the possible pathways for making DISCOMs economically viable in the context of a green transition.
- ICEE organized a panel discussion on the key decisions made at COP27. The panel consisted of Richa Sharma, Additional Secretary at the MoEFCC; Sunita Narain, Director General of the Centre for Science and Environment; and Harjeet Singh, head of global political strategy at Climate Action Network International.
- At COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, ICEE researchers organized a side event titled “Designing Governance Systems to Enable Effective Implementation of the



Navroz K. Dubash spoke at the G20 Development Working Group side event on “Infusing New LiFE Into Green Development”.

Paris Agreement” in collaboration with the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at the London School of Economics (UK) and Climate Legal (South Africa). ICEE researchers also participated in several discussions at COP27.

- Mukta Naik was a panellist for a discussion titled “Where Are the Women in Climate Action?” at the collaborative conference Integrating Gender and Climate Change Conversations which took place at the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi, in February 2023. The

“Discussions on Engendering the Discourse” event was organized as part of the IIC Diamond Jubilee in collaboration with Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), an initiative of the Foundation for Universal Responsibility and the Kubernein Initiative.

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- Anirudh Sridhar and Navroz K. Dubash led a collaborative project with the Grantham

Research Institute on climate change and the environment at the London School of Economics (UK) and Climate Legal (South Africa) on climate governance functions required to enable low-carbon, climate-resilient transitions to net zero.

- Aman Srivastava and Navroz K. Dubash collaborated with IIT Delhi to develop the Climate Futures Project, which presents a common framework to assess, compare and interpret the results of energy emissions modelling studies in India. Using this framework, they assessed the findings of three recent modelling studies and their implications for climate policymaking. They also organized a discussion with sector experts on how modelling exercises can better serve the policy community in the future.

Navroz K. Dubash spoke at the technical dialogue focused exchange on “International Cooperation on Holistic and Integrated Approaches” held at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh.



Aditya Valiathan Pillai presented findings from CPR's report titled *How is India Adapting to Heatwaves? An Assessment of Heat Action Plans with Insights for Transformative Climate Action* at the National Disaster Management Authority's annual preparatory meeting on heatwaves.



Aditya conducted training on the topic “India's People, Economy and Government in a More Destructive Climate” for scientists and technologists working in the government sector at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie.

# Economy



Image Source: [economictimes.indiatimes.com](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com)

*Beyond a specific focus on agriculture, CPR has used a multisectoral lens through which it has sought to better understand the real economy. Our work has spanned areas of public finance, infrastructure, trade policy, jobs, social policy financing and the design of the welfare state and the rural economy. This year, we placed a spotlight on the rural economy and continued our engagement with regulatory authorities.*

## Select Policy Engagements

- Yamini Aiyar wrote a journal article titled “Citizen vs Labharthi: Interrogating the Welfare State” in *Seminar* in January 2023.
- The State Capacity Initiative continued its engagement with India’s regulatory agencies into a second year. There were five events featuring conversations with the chairpersons of regulatory agencies, including regulators from state and

central agencies for water resources, electricity, pensions and insurance, each of which was accompanied by a briefing note and a post-event summary. The CPR Dialogues 2022 featured a special event on health sector regulation, which included the union health secretary and some agencies responsible for healthcare and drug regulation. The series ended in March 2023 with an event to launch a briefing book titled *Know Your Regulator: Reforming Regulatory Governance in India*.



- Sanjay Kathuria edited a book, *The Age of Ferment: Developments in Asian-European Trade Relations*, and he wrote a substantive introductory piece for it. The book was published by KAS Japan in June 2022.
- The flagship annual Budget Brief series was published for the fifteenth time, with this year's volume examining the trends in fund allocations, releases, expenditures, outputs and outcomes of 12 key centrally sponsored schemes covering education, maternal and newborn health, health systems strengthening, water, nutrition, rural livelihoods and urban development.
- Mukta Naik participated in a consultation organized by the World Bank on "Enhancing Women's Access to Paid Work in India" in December 2022 in New Delhi.

## Select Public Engagements

- Sanjay Kathuria wrote an article for KAS Japan in October 2022 titled "South Asia Cannot Afford to Deglobalize". He also wrote a piece in *Foreign Policy* in April 2022 titled "The US Should Stop Nickel and Diming India and Bangladesh".
- Members of the CPR team participated in a two-day workshop of the Women, Work, and the Gig Economy (WWGE) consortium in June 2022 in

New Delhi where it presented findings from the project Ecosystems of Engagement: Digital Platform and Women's Work in Sri Lanka and India.

- Mukta Naik was a panellist at the National Meeting of Informal Sector Workers held in November 2022 organized by the Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS).
- Sanjay Kathuria made a presentation at the India-Bangladesh Business Forum to an audience that included the Bangladeshi Commerce Minister Mr Tipu Munshi in September 2022.
- Sanjay Kathuria and TG Srinivasan presented the findings of their research in a presentation titled "The Proposed India-UK Free Trade Agreement: Another Early Harvest or Dynamic Gains?" at a Niti Aayog seminar in September 2022.
- Sanjay Kathuria was awarded a fellowship by the Woodrow Wilson Centre for International Scholars, Washington, D.C., for 2021-22, to work on his new book on *The Future of South Asia*.

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- The WWGE consortium funded by IDRC and anchored by Just Jobs Network joined a growing research stream seeking to make sense of women's

work in a labour market experiencing rapid technological transformations. In this, the Ecosystems of Engagement project, involving CPR, LIRNEasia, the Indian Institute of Human Settlements and the World Resources Institute, takes a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach. The project collects insights from platform companies and women partners and brings these into conversation with policy experts, academicians and practitioners in the areas of labour, employment, gender and digital governance.

- A CPR Dialogues 2022 session titled "Digital Ecosystems and Female Labour Force Participation" held on 30 September 2022. The panel addressed questions related to how platform jobs change the gendered norms of work that exist offline to increase women's labour force participation. It also looked into the impact of digital ecosystems on the quality of jobs and whether the benefits outweigh the costs.

# Education



Image Source: worldbank.org

*CPR's work on education focused primarily on school education and documenting and contributing to the debates on education reform. Our body of work this year includes an analysis of the regulation of school education in India and traces the evolution of elementary education reform.*

## Select Policy Engagements

- Priyadarshini Singh authored a report titled *Ideas, Policies and Practices: Tracing the Evolution of Elementary Education Reform in India from 1975 to 2020*, published as a working paper for the Research in Improving Systems of Education (RISE) program at the University of Pennsylvania. The report traces the key ideas and debates on elementary education reform in India, focusing on key policies and programs from 1975 onwards, 1986 school education policy, state-level, donor-funded projects such as Shiksha Karmi, DPEP (1994), SSA (2000), RTE (2010) and the National Education Policy (2020).
- Kiran Bhatta, Mridusmita Bordoloi, Avani Kapur, Mohammad Hamza and Anupriya Singh wrote a background paper titled *Regulation of Non-State Actors in School Education in India*. Commissioned by the UNESCO Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report, the paper provides background research for the GEM 2022 Regional Report on non-state actors in education in South Asia.
- The education leg of the Mapping Governance learning tool was launched by the Accountability Initiative during the CPR Dialogues 2022. Mapping Governance is an interactive, visual, and dynamic tool that provides a holistic view of how social sector programmes in India are governed from the central level down to the last mile. The education leg features maps on structures in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

## Select Public Engagements

- Yamini Aiyar delivered a talk titled “Rewriting the Grammar of the Education System: Delhi’s Education Reform (A Tale of Creative Resistance and Creative Disruption)” at the Mittal Institute at Harvard University in November 2022 as a part of the joint seminar on South Asian Politics.
- Priyadarshini Singh was invited to present a paper on “Ideas, Practices and Policies: Tracing the Evolution of Elementary Education Reform in India” at the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference 2023, Washington D.C., USA.
- An open round table on “Regulation of Non-State Actors in India’s School Education” was organized against the backdrop of the release of the paper titled *Regulation of Non-State Actors in School Education in India*, which contributed to the 2022 Global Education Monitoring (GEM) South Asia Report on non-state actors in education. The round table asked eminent personalities who have extensively worked on regulation to offer their views.
- Avani Kapur, Lead, Accountability Initiative, was a panellist in the Indian national launch of the 2022 GEM South Asia Report on non-state actors in education.
- Priyadarshini Singh was selected to be part of the Board of Studies of Wilson College, Mumbai, an autonomous institution under Mumbai University.

# Environmental Law and Justice



Image Source: nationalgeographic.com

*CPR has been committed to fostering an evidence-based discussion on the environment. In particular, CPR scholars have worked at the intersections of environmental law and practice.*

## Select Policy Engagements

- Kanchi Kohli and Manju Menon of CPR's India Infrastructures and Ecologies Program coauthored an essay titled "Environment Regulation" published in *Understanding Post-Covid-19 Governance Challenges in India: A Compendium of Essays*. The essay reviews recent changes in environmental standards meant to aid economic recovery in mid- and post-pandemic India.
- Kanchi Kohli and Manju Menon coauthored a paper titled *Regulating Urban Trees in India: Issues and Challenges*. The report highlights the scope and functions of a dozen tree laws implemented in different states in India. The implementation of these laws has come into public focus in recent years due to the growing number of cases of large-scale tree felling in Indian cities.
- Philippe Cullet authored an article titled "Governing Water to Foster Equity and Conservation" in the *Economic and Political Weekly* in June 2022.

## Select Public Engagements

- Manju Menon was a speaker at the Anthropocene Lecture Series 2022 organized by the Jawaharlal Nehru University in May 2022. She spoke on the topic "Khorri Gaon and the Unsettled Interpretations of Forests in Haryana".
- Manju Menon was a panellist in a webinar on "Environment, Climate and Tribes" organized by the Socratus Foundation for Collective Wisdom and the Odisha Environment Congress in December 2022.
- Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli spoke at a training programme on the National Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop (Marine Fisheries) on the Small Scale Fisheries Guidelines organized by the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers in October 2022.
- Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli were panellists at a roundtable on cities and climate action organized by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, in March 2023.
- Manju Menon and Kanchi Kohli did a series of podcasts with *The Hindu* unpacking the proposed and final changes in environment and forest governance frameworks.

# Energy and Electricity



Image Source: terlin.org

*India is in the unique position of having to build growth strategies in a warming world. The energy choices India makes today will lock us on to particular pathways that will also shape our environmental trajectory in the future. The challenge for India is to identify appropriate energy transition paths that are both sustainable as well as responsive to our economic needs. CPR's experts on energy and electricity have long focused on this question. This year too, India's energy transitions and power sector reform challenges were in focus.*

## Select Policy Engagements

- Parth Bhatia and Karnamadakala Rahul Sharma coauthored a book chapter titled "How Just and Democratic Is India's Solar Energy Transition?: An Analysis of State Solar Policies in India" in *Climate Justice in India* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). The chapter assesses state policies to understand whether and how they are incorporating energy justice goals.

- Marie-Hélène Zérah, Sarada Prasanna Das authored a journal article “Solar Rooftop Systems and the Urban Transition: Shall the Twain Ever Meet? Interrogations from Rewari, India” in the *Journal of Urban Technology* in February 2023. The article contributes to the field of urban energy research by looking at solar rooftop systems (SRS) in a district located on the extended periphery of Delhi. Using a multi-pronged, qualitative methodology in a corridor made of villages and small towns, the authors argue that public policies are framed applying a rigid territorial grid opposing urban and rural, ignoring the motivations of both residential and professional users, which are not bounded by the rural/urban binary.
- Suravee Nayak authored a journal article titled “Coal Extraction, Dispossession and the ‘Classes of Labour’ in Coalfields of Eastern India” in the *Journal of Peasant Studies* in December 2022. Drawing upon long-term fieldwork conducted in the coalfields of eastern India, the paper argues for the formation of multiple, fragmented and hierarchical ‘classes of labour’ in the ‘new public sector’ coal mines of India.
- Ashwini K Swain and Rohit Chandra authored a working paper titled ‘Band-Aid Solutions Won’t Staunch India’s Power Crisis’ in the *India Forum* in which they traced the structural roots of persisting power shortages in India. They analysed immediate government responses to the crisis and their consequences and identify priorities for a long-term solution that were consistent with energy transition.

## Select Public Engagements

- Kanchi Kohli was a panellist at the Girish Sant Memorial Annual Event on “Towards a People-centric Energy Transition” organized by the Prayas (Energy Group) in Pune in February 2023.
- In October 2022, Namita Wahi spoke at the “Report Release & Discussion Meeting on Legal Assessment for a Just Transition of Coal Power Plants in India” organized by iForest.
- ICEE organized a panel discussion on the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022, and the possible implications of the proposed changes to electricity laws, with energy sector practitioners, experts and civil society representatives in attendance.

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- CPR, in collaboration with Prayas (Energy Group) and WRI-India, continued their work on building a multi-year trans-sectoral initiative to assess energy transition preparedness and progress in Indian states. This initiative is called the Energy Transition Preparedness Initiative (ETPI), a state-level framework to assess plans, actions, and governance processes towards an energy transition.

# Federalism



Image Source: livemint.com

*At the heart of India's 21st century challenges is the question of how to ensure deeper and better coordination between the centre and the states. What does federalism mean in the 21st century? What level of government should be performing what level of function and how do these renegotiate themselves in light of these challenges?*

From foreign policy to water to markets, the pulls of centralization and the demands for decentralization are reshaping the federal dynamic. CPR is working toward understanding these processes, finding solutions for policy design and building sensible 21st century federal institutions that can better coordinate and tackle complex challenges like climate change and welfare delivery.

## Select Policy Engagements

- Several researchers from CPR coauthored a working paper series *Cooperative Federalism: From Theory to Practice*. The authors included Yamini Aiyar, K. P. Krishnan, Chakshu Roy, Mukta Naik, Amrita Pillai, Karan Gulati, Kandarp Patel, Anoop Singh, Chinmay Tumbe, MR Madhavan, Raeesa Vakil, Niranjana Rajadhyaksha, Prakhar Misra, Haseeb A. Drabu, Suyash Rai and Milan Vaishnav.

## Select Public Engagements

- Sampath Kumar, Michal Rutkowski, Parameswaran Iyer and Yamini Aiyar spoke on the topic "Unpacking State capability for Social Policy, Planning and the Economy: Lessons from India and the World" at the CPR Dialogues 2022 in October 2022.
- The Hon'ble Buggana Rajendranath Reddy and Yamini Aiyar spoke at the discussion "Governance from the Bottom-up: Panchayats and Fiscal Federalism" at the CPR Dialogues in October 2022.
- The Hon'ble Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, Rathin Roy and Yamini Aiyar spoke at the discussion "Building a Fit for Purpose Fiscal Architecture for India" at the CPR Dialogues in October 2022.

# Governance, Accountability and State Capacity



Image Source: thewire.in

*The capacity constraints of the Indian state have long been its Achilles heel. How do we build capacity to ensure it responds to 21st century challenges, such as climate change, regulation, technology, while completing the unfinished task of governance of the 20th century, such as providing basic public services like health and education? How do we ensure the government is responsive to citizens' needs and that democracy is deepened by creating spaces for citizens to hold the state accountable? These are some of the questions that CPR's work on governance, accountability and state capacity has focused on.*

The Accountability Initiative celebrated its fifteenth anniversary in 2023, and the flagship annual Budget Brief series was published for the fifteenth time, covering the trends in fund allocations, releases, expenditures, outputs and outcomes of 12 key Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The State Capacity Initiative continued its engagement with India's regulatory

agencies into a second year. It held five events featuring conversations with chairpersons of regulatory agencies, including regulators from state and central agencies for water resources, electricity, pensions and insurance. The series was brought to a close in March 2023 with the launch of a briefing book titled *Know Your Regulator: Reforming Regulatory Governance in India*.



Rajika Seth, Sidharth Santhosh, Avani Kapur, Neeha Susan Jacob, and Pritika Malhotra authored a policy note titled “Making It Work: Institutionalising Social Audits in Meghalaya in India”. The study understood how social audits have been institutionalized in Meghalaya and identified core areas that the state government and the state social audit unit can strengthen to ensure that efficient audits are conducted.

Tanya Rana, Ritwik Shukla, Avani Kapur authored a policy note titled “Where Do the Victims of Gender Based Violence Go: A Needs Analysis for Women’s Safety Schemes in India”. The study looked at the status and finances of two women’s safety schemes run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), which cover a wide range of reported crimes such as domestic violence, kidnapping and abduction, sexual harassment, trafficking, acid attacks, cybercrime, and dowry harassment and deaths.

## Select Policy Engagements

- In 2020, the Platform to Understand, Learn, Share and Exchange (PULSE) for Development was launched to bring together development practitioners who were working to mitigate the pandemic’s adverse impacts. In 2022, a conscious decision was made to connect practitioners on the longstanding development challenges confronting India and the attainment of the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A substantial offering of the PULSE for Development is the development of tracks, or mini communities of practice, dedicated to a specific policy issue. In 2022, as part of the Transform NEEV Collective, a track on child protection and well-being was initiated in Maharashtra.

- Avani Kapur authored a journal article titled “The Mission Creep Problem in Panchayat Finances”. Published in *Seminar*, it takes a critical look at the real-status devolution of funds and functions to Panchayati Raj institutions by studying the period post the 14th Finance Commission, which significantly increased resources for local governments.
- Sidharth Santhosh, Ritwik Shukla, and Avani Kapur authored an issue brief titled “A Comprehensive Overview of Departmental Convergence Under MGNREGS”. The brief is an extensive policy content analysis of 37 publicly available policy documents such as circulars, guidelines and presentations published by national ministries.
- The Accountability Initiative conducted data checks, validation and analysis on two national-level surveys (Ease of Living and Mission Antodaya). This was part of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development.
- As part of an MoU with the Chief Minister of Rajasthan’s Economic

Transformation Advisory Council (CMRETAC), the Accountability Initiative mapped data generation, use and processes across education, health and family welfare and Panchayati Raj departments. The study on data use by the government also recommends methods to manage data flows and how to use it to support effective decision-making.

- The Accountability Initiative also supported the government of Andhra Pradesh by evaluating some of its welfare programmes.
- Avani Kapur, Lead, was selected to be a task force member for a working group to revamp the Mission Antodaya questionnaire by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- As a part of the State Capacity Initiative’s *Know Your Regulator* series, a working paper titled *Know your Regulator: Reframing Regulatory Governance in India* was coauthored by Mekhala Krishnamurthy, K.P. Krishnan, Deepak Sanan, Arkaja Singh, Abha Yadav and Amrita Pillai and released in March 2023.
- Yamini Aiyar, K.P. Krishnan and the State Capacity Initiative’s lead Mekhala Krishnamurthy with Milan Vaishnav of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace edited and released a working paper series titled *Cooperative Federalism—From Theory to Practice* as a part of the CPR-Carnegie collaborative research programme on cooperative

federalism in India. The papers included:

- *Statutory Regulatory Authorities and the Federal System in India* by K.P. Krishnan, Amrita Pillai and Karan Gulati
  - *Resetting the Fiscal Architecture: Lessons for India* by Kandarp Patel and Anoop Singh
  - *Towards an Inter-State Migration Council* by Chinmay Tumbe
  - *Institutions of Political Mediation: The Office of the Governor* by Chakshu Roy and M. R. Madhavan
  - *The Adjudication of Federal Disputes* by Raeesa Vakil
  - *Parallel Streams: Political Federalism and Economic Integration in India* by Niranjana Rajadhyaksha and Prakhar Misra
- 
- Rashmi Sharma released two CPR working papers in March 2023: *Frontline Functionaries in India: The Absent Policy and Organisation Through Neglect: Understanding Field Administration in India*.
  - Arkaja Singh's CPR working paper titled *India's Regulatory Shift: An Examination of Five Agencies of the Post-Liberalisation Era* was released in February 2023.
  - Gokulnath Govindan's CPR working paper *Frontline Workers and the COVID-19 Pandemic* was released in July 2022.

- The State Capacity Initiative, anchored by CPR Senior Visiting Fellow Deepak Sanan, organized a training course for the new batch of Himachal Pradesh civil service officers held at the Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) in August–September 2022.

## Select Public Engagements

- To mark the Union Budget of 2023, the Accountability Initiative released “The Budget Game”, an interactive, online game that puts the player in the driver’s seat while making fund allocations to various government schemes to achieve

development goals with limited fiscal resources.

- The Accountability Initiative held a workshop for journalists in English and Hindi to understand and use the Union Budget in their stories.
- A special panel titled “The Welfare State in the Digital Age: Planning for Stronger Public Fund Flows” was curated as part of the CPR Dialogues 2022. The panel included Arun Sharma, Officer on Special Duty to MOS, Electronics & IT and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Saurabh Garg, CEO, UIDAI; Shrayana Bhattacharya, Senior Social Protection Economist, World

Training course for the new batch of Himachal Pradesh civil service officers held at the Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public Administration (HIPA).



Bank in India; and Avani Kapur.

- Avani Kapur was a speaker in a workshop involving members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) on Centrally Sponsored Schemes and fiscal transfers to states organized by PRS Legislative Research.
- Avani Kapur was the chair of the “Public Finance and Governance Panel: 25th Anniversary conference on Institutions and Public Policy”. She was also a panellist on a session titled “The Role of Independent Institutions in Public Discourse and Delivery” organized by Centre for Budget and Policy Studies (CBPS). Tanya Rana of the Accountability Initiative also presented her

work in the gender and public spaces panel organized on the same occasion.

- Seventy grassroots development professionals were trained in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar as part of the flagship Hum Aur Humaari Sarkaar programme. In addition, two modules on social protection and e-governance were added to the course.
- To mark 75 years of India's independence, the Accountability Initiative started the *State Speak* interview series featuring insights from Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers posted in various districts and other public officials who have a deep understanding

of how the country is being governed along with the related challenges and best practices. The collection of interviews provides valuable insights into policy implementation and decision-making associated with local communities.

- The Accountability Initiative also conducted a session on public policy, public administration, policy design and implementation, and public finance as part of the Public Policy Certification Programme for Faculty and PhD-holders belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Marginalised Groups.
- The Accountability Initiative launched Mapping Governance, an interactive, visual and dynamic learning tool that gives a holistic view of how social sector programmes in India are governed from the union government down to the last mile. An eminent panel comprising leaders in the development space and the government discussed the challenges of governance, what kind of information is needed to create better strategies for government engagement, and how such a tool can support the work of development practitioners.
- The State Capacity Initiative released an e-handbook with ideas for regulatory reform based on the *Know Your Regulator* series which continued through the year.

Students of the Indian School of Development Management (ISDM) trained by the Accountability Initiative team.



- Arkaja Singh was invited to speak on regulatory governance at Delhi University's School of Public Policy and Governance's Public Policy Research, Pedagogy and Practice conference on 15 March 2023. She delivered a lecture titled "Public Policy and State Capacity: From Provision to Regulation?".
- Mekhala Krishnamurthy of the State Capacity Initiative was nominated to Apolitical's "100 Most Influential Academics in Government" list for her work on social policy and state capacity. The list highlighted work that has influenced policymaking processes by providing insights into policy problems, contributing innovative ideas

and solutions, or adding relevant and informative data. Public servants were invited to nominate the academics who are the most influential to the work of the government.

### Partnerships and Collaborations

- A new MoU was signed between the Accountability Initiative and the government of Meghalaya to study the status of the SDGs in the state. This was in addition to a previous MoU under the terms of which the research group assisted the departments of Finance and Planning in developing Meghalaya's first gender and youth budgets.
- In collaboration with the Piramal Foundation, the Accountability Initiative worked on Project Samanvay to enhance the capacity of Panchayati Raj institution members from the tribal district of Barwani (Pati Block) in Madhya Pradesh.
- For the fifth year in a row, the Accountability Initiative's team trained students of the Indian School of Development Management (ISDM) through their flagship Understanding State Capabilities course. Sixty-five students pursuing the postgraduate programme in development management were part of these in-person sessions. Trainings were also given to a cohort of the

Hum Aur Humaari Sarkaar training conducted with Jaipur University Students



EduMentum programme co-orchestrated by Shikshalokam and Mantra4Change and participants of the University of Chicago's International Innovation Corps Fellowship were also given training. Participants from social impact organizations, such as Sambodhi Research, Sanjhi Sikhiya Foundation, Nudge and the Health Systems Transformation Platform, also enrolled for the course in the last financial year.

- In 2022, CPR and the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute (MATI), government of Meghalaya, launched the Longitudinal Study of the Meghalaya Civil Services, a novel initiative by the

government of Meghalaya that aims to research and document the career trajectories of MCS officers from induction until retirement. This ambitious study is the first of its kind in India, and unique globally, and will generate valuable insights on Indian public administration, specifically on administrative reform, design principles for the civil services, the trade-offs inherent to the work of state civil service officers, and the norms and values of bureaucracy. Further, this study can offer practical insights for ongoing administrative reform in Meghalaya, such as creating systems to assess and enhance the competencies of state civil services officers. The first

rounds of research have been completed and are yielding rich insights.

- In 2022-23, CPR undertook a major evaluation study of key direct benefit transfer schemes and a new, evolving architecture of decentralized implementation at the field level for the government of Andhra Pradesh.
- In October 2022, the State Capacity Initiative was appointed as a research support secretariat for the government of Tamil Nadu's Human Resources Reforms Committee and was expected to make detailed recommendations to the state government within an initial period of six months.

#### Survey carried out by The Accountability Initiative



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#### A Merchandise (bag) from Project Samanvay



# Health and Nutrition

Image Source: unicef.org



*CPR has focused on research and policy engagement aimed at strengthening health systems in India. This resulted in key interventions made by CPR faculty during the COVID-19 pandemic. More recently, CPR scholars have begun to spotlight the social determinants of health with a particular emphasis on nutrition.*

## Select Policy Engagements

- The Accountability Initiative and researchers from the International Food Policy Research Institute collaborated on a costing study, published as a policy note titled “Financing Nutrition in India: Cost Implications of the Nutrition Policy Landscape 2022-23”. This note unpacks the costs to fully finance a set of core direct nutrition interventions (DNIs) at scale in FY 2022-23.
- During the financial year 2022-23, against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Accountability Initiative undertook a rapid assessment on the status of nutrition-related services under Saksham Angwandi and Poshan 2.0 (previously Integrated Child Development Services) scheme

across two districts of Bihar, Purnia and Kishanganj.

- In a key sectoral contribution, CPR facilitated technical resource support on comprehensive primary healthcare (CPHC) to the government of Meghalaya as part of its ongoing partnership on building state capacity. Emerging from a participatory process and deep consultations with functionaries at all levels of the health system, new guidelines in a publication called *Understanding Comprehensive Primary Health Care: The Meghalaya Way* were launched by the Department of Health in December 2022. Meghalaya is the first state to release state-specific CPHC guidelines, which set the framework and way forward for transformative, comprehensive healthcare delivery and coverage for every citizen of the state.

- Philippe Cullet and Lovleen Bhullar coauthored an article titled “The Regulation of Planetary Health Challenges: A Co-Benefits Approach for AMR and WASH” in *Environmental Policy and Law* in July 2022.
- Ritwik Shukla and Avani Kapur coauthored a journal article titled “Methods and Lessons from Costing a Large Mhealth Intervention at Scale in India” in *Frontiers in Public Health* in June 2022.
- Gokulnath Govindan authored a CPR working paper titled *Frontline Workers and the COVID-19 Pandemic* in July 2022.

## Select Public Engagements

- In collaboration with the World Bank, the Accountability Initiative organized a presentation on “Improving Effective Coverage in Health: Do Financial Incentives Work?”. Damien de Walque and Eeshani Kandpal reviewed the evidence of the impact of performance-based financing on health service delivery spanning 15 years in nearly 40 countries with a particular emphasis on the quality of service delivery.
- Avani Kapur was a faculty member for a course titled *Understanding PHN: Towards Policy and Action*, which was organized by the Public Health Foundation of India on nutrition policy and action in India.

# Indian Politics



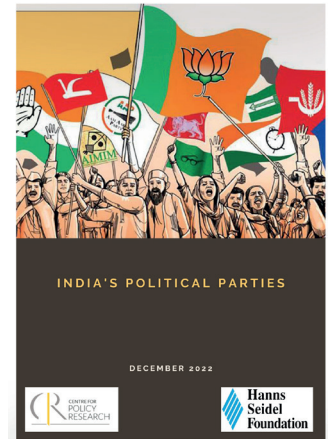
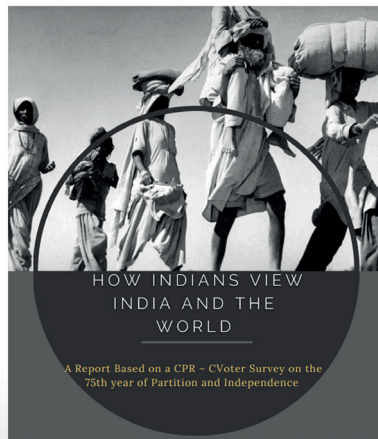
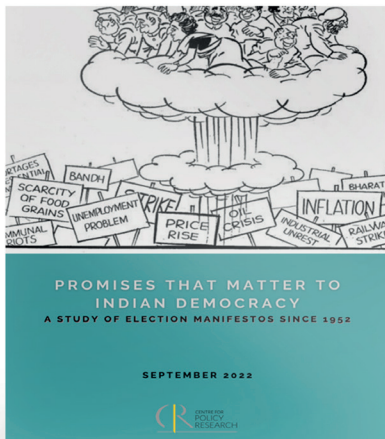
Image Source: outlookindia.com

*Good politics has always been considered the antithesis of good policy—or good economics—yet the two are inextricably linked. How do we better understand the shifting dynamics of the political economy to ensure that technocratic policy ideas are realistic and implementable? How do we track the forces that are altering Indian politics and evaluate their downstream effects on policy?*

CPR's Politics Initiative plays host to research by some of the country's most renowned political scientists, who are looking to understand the rapid changes in India's political economy landscape which is now being manifested through significant electoral consequences.

## Select Policy Engagements

- The Politics Initiative launched their report exploring whether the manifestos of political parties play a meaningful role before, during and after elections. The results of this ambitious exercise mapping party manifestos since 1952 offer a wealth of data and a ringside view of how India's politics, economy and society have changed since its first elections.
- CPR and the CVoter Foundation conducted the Partition Survey,



spearheading a unique survey-based research project in which citizens of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were asked to give their opinions on a series of questions that dealt with the political, economic, social and religious issues of the past, present and future. The Politics Initiative launched the India report in September 2022 and aims to launch a comparative report in August 2023.

- The Politics Initiative released a report on India's political parties between 1962 and 2021. The first part of the report analyses how and when parties in India were formed, the factors that impacted their survival and what caused their eventual decline and exit. The second part of the report analyses the data gathered by approaching experts on Indian politics in various states through an online survey.

- The Politics Initiative conducted the biennial CPR-Mint-YouGov Survey, the results of which were released in August 2022.
- The first Duke University's Democratic Accountability and Linkages Project (DALP) expert survey was conducted in 2009, making a repeat survey in 2022 an important undertaking. The Politics Initiative spearheaded the India component of DALP II. The survey data will allow students of parties to get a glimpse of the changes that have taken place in the conduct, organization and strategies of political parties in India.
- Rahul Verma, Fellow, Politics Initiative, curated the March 2023 issue of *Seminar* on the theme "Local Governance: Evaluating 30 years of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments". He authored the introductory section, and the issue included various

contributions from CPR staff and faculty, including Nishant Ranjan, Avani Kapur, Shyam Babu, Partha Mukhopadhyay and Neelanjan Sircar. The issue also featured a conversation between CPR's Yamini Aiyar and the London School of Economic's (LSE) Mukulika Banerjee.

## Select Public Engagements

- The Politics Initiative organized the CSH-CSDS-CPR panel discussion titled "Contemporary Democracy in India" on 29 August 2022.
- CPR and IMAKE organized a panel discussion titled 'Electoral Inclusion for Internal Migrants' on National Voters Day on 23 January 2023 and discussed the effects this move could have on Indian politics.





A panel discussion on “Electoral Inclusion for Internal Migrants”



- The Politics Initiative organized several book discussions including one on Pranab Bardhan's *A World of Insecurity* and another on Rajeev Bhargava's *Ethical Reflections on Contemporary India*.
- Priyadarshini Singh of CPR's State Capacity Initiative was invited to present her paper titled *Narratives of National Pride: Indian Nationalism at the Grassroots* at the departmental seminar of the Centre for Political Ethnography, University of Southampton
- With the Association for Nationalism and Ethnicity (ASEN) at the LSE, Priyadarshini Singh also co-convended a reading group on nationalism consisting of scholars based around the world from April–December 2022. She edited a set of media commentaries authored by the members of the reading group and is working on a special issue of a journal.



The Politics Initiative organized a book discussion on Pranab Bardhan's *A World of Insecurity*.



Book Discussion on “*Between Hope and Despair: 100 Ethical Reflections on Contemporary India*” by Rajeev Bhargava



Discussion on “Unpacking the Uttar Pradesh Verdict” in conversation with Yamin Aiyar, Neelanjan Sircar, Rahul Verma, and Gilles Verniers.

# International Relations and Security



Image Source: unherd.com

*How should India navigate the geopolitical risks that have emerged alongside the rise of China and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Russia-Ukraine conflict, and the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific theatre? What will it take for Indian policymakers to integrate matters as diverse as supply chain resilience and cybersecurity into their strategic planning? Where do we situate India in today's international order, which is undergoing tectonic, and possibly enduring, shifts?*

CPR brings together a mix of renowned foreign policy practitioners alongside reputed academics and historians to provide a springboard for in-depth research and policy recommendations aimed at helping a rising India find its place in a deeply complex geopolitical environment.

## Select Policy Engagements

- Shyam Saran authored a book titled *How China sees India and the World*, an authoritative account of the India-China relationship, published by Juggernaut Books in 2022.

- Sanjay Kathuria edited a book titled *Age of Ferment: Developments in Asian-European Trade Relations*. The book was published by KAS Japan in June 2022.
- Nimmi Kurian authored several journal articles and book chapters, including “When Practice Meets Policy: How Border Regions are Localising

India’s Neighbourhood Policy”, *Global Policy* (Durham University, 2022); “Beyond Theoretical Navel-Gazing: India’s Discourse on Borders and the Making of a Research Periphery” in *Negotiating Borders and Borderlands: The Indian Experience* edited by Gorky Chakraborty and Supurna Banerjee (Orient Blackswan 2023); and “Why the Caged

Bird Sings’: Resource Capture and Resistance in the China-Myanmar Borderlands” in *Capital and Ecology: Developmentalism Subjectivity and Alternatives* edited by R. Bhattacharya and A. Sharma (Routledge 2023).

- Sushant Singh authored a book chapter titled “India’s Internal Security Doctrine in Practice” in *Internal Security in India: Violence, Order and the State* edited by Devesh Kapur.

CPR Dialogues 2022; War and Inflation: The World Economy in the Grip of Polycrisis, in conversation with Suman Bery, moderated by Yamini Aiyar and a keynote address by Adam Tooze.



- Anghshuman Choudhury coauthored a policy brief compendium titled *Seeking Strategic Options for Myanmar: Reviewing Five-Point Consensus and Anticipating the Future of Democracy in Myanmar* published by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Indonesia, in October 2022.

## Select Public Engagements

- As a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, CPR launched a series of lectures titled *India and the World* with renowned experts moderated by Shyam Saran. These included a lecture by:
  - Nabil Fahmy on 13 April 2022
  - Ibrahim Gambari on 19 May 2022
  - Dr Mohamed ElBaradei on 14 June 2022
  - Tshering Tobgay on 14 August 2022.
- Spotlight South Asia, a special podcast series hosted by Sushant Singh featured



Book discussion: *How China sees India and the world* by Shyam Saran



Yamini Aiyar, Hon. Lisa Singh (CEO, Australia India Institute), and Dr Meenakshi Gopinath at the the Australia-India Dialogue held at CPR

leading experts from India's neighbourhood to unpack the political, economic and social developments in these countries and what they mean for India.

- Nimmi Kurian was a panellist on an international webinar titled "The Responses of India and China to the War in Ukraine" organized by the India China Institute, the New School, New York, in April 2022.
- Kurian was also a panellist on the Australia India Institute-CPR Roundtable on "Engendering International Relations: An Australia-India Dialogue" in April 2022.
- Shivshankar Menon and Sushant Singh participated in a discussion titled "Casting a Shadow: India and the

Neighbourhood" at the CPR Dialogues 2022 in September 2022.

- Adam Tooze, Suman Bery and Yamini Aiyar participated in a discussion titled "War and Inflation: The World economy in the Grip of Polycrisis" at the CPR Dialogues in September 2022.
- Shyam Saran and Sushant Singh participated in a discussion titled "India in an Altered Geopolitical Landscape: How Foreign Policy is Leveraging a Challenging External Environment for the Transformation of India" at the CPR Dialogues 2022 in October 2022.
- Nimmi Kurian was invited to be a reviewer for the Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral, Post-Doctoral and Professional Excellence

Shyam Saran at CPR Dialogues 2022



Fellowships by the United States-India Educational Foundation, Fulbright Commission in India.

## Collaborations and Partnerships

- Namita Wahi represented India as part of the Tenth Australia India Youth Dialogue held in May-June 2022 in Sydney (Macquarie University and Sydney University) and Melbourne (Deakin University and Monash University). Held annually, the Dialogue brings together 30 outstanding young leaders from the fields of academia, the arts, business, journalism, policy, politics, films and sports to create enduring relationships between India and Australia and to collaborate on initiatives that create sustainable outcomes for both countries.

# Land Rights



Image Source: livemint.com

*India faces serious challenges in constructing development paths that are socially inclusive, ecologically sustainable, politically feasible, and in accordance with the Rule of Law. CPR's work on land rights has focused on the intersections of property rights, land administration and urbanization, and building systematic knowledge on land rights issues. This year, The Land Rights Initiative launched a mobile version of Mapping Indian Land Laws, a first-of-its-kind comprehensive database.*

## Select Policy Engagements

- In January 2023, Namita Wahi of the Land Rights Initiative presented the Mapping Indian Land Laws website to researchers at the North Eastern Social Science Research Centre and to scholars, lawyers, and government officials in Guwahati, Assam.
- Mugdha Mohapatra of the Land Rights Initiative authored a CPR working paper titled *Land Rights for Urban Slum*
- *Dwellers: A Review of the Odisha Land Rights to Slum Dwellers Act, 2017 and the Jaga Mission* in October 2022.
- Through its Land, Planning and Housing vertical, the Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) programme continued to provide implementation and policy support to the governments of Punjab and Odisha in implementing their land titling initiatives, the BASERA and JAGA Mission respectively. With specific reference to Odisha, CPR

provided continued support for diversifying forest land to provide basic civic and social infrastructure to slum dwellers and in the articulation of the amendment to the Odisha Municipal Corporation Act, 2003, to enable the grant of land/property rights to slum dwellers in municipal corporation areas.

## Select Public Engagements

- In June 2022, Namita Wahi gave a lecture at the Melbourne School of Design titled “The Legal Regime and Political Economy of Land Rights of Indigenous Communities in India”.
- In August 2022, Namita Wahi gave a talk titled “One Thousand Land Laws: Mapping Indian Land Laws” at the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Bergen, Norway.
- In November 2022, Namita Wahi lectured on “Forest Laws and Policies and the Legal Regime and Political Economy of Land Rights of Scheduled Tribes in Scheduled Areas of India” to tribal leaders at the Tata Steel Tribal Conclave.
- In July 2003, Namita Wahi participated in an intensive workshop for the Conflict and Contestation in Plural Land Regimes project in Lisbon, Portugal.
- In July 2022, Namita Wahi participated in two panels on “PluriLand: Theorising Conflict and Contestation in Plural Land Regimes” at the Law and Society Association Conference in Lisbon. These were chaired by Rachel Sieder with Siri Gloppen and Tatiana Alfonso as discussants.
- In August 2022, Namita Wahi spoke at the opening roundtable of the Bergen Exchanges 2022 titled “Autocratic Legalism in Comparative Perspective” organized by the Centre on Law and Social Transformation, a joint initiative of the Chr. Michelsen Institute and the University of Bergen. This was followed by other panel

Launch of the mobile version of the Mapping Indian Land Laws website and panel discussion on One Thousand Land Laws: Land, Democracy and the Rule of Law



discussions at the Bergen Exchanges 2022.

- In December 2022, The Land Rights Initiative co-organized the Sixth India Land and Development Conference (ILDC) at the Azim Premji University in Bengaluru.
- In September 2022, Mugdha Mohapatra of the Land Rights Initiative presented her paper titled *Land Rights of Urban Slum Dwellers in Odisha* as part of the CPR LRI Speaker Series and Property Rights Research Consortium. Arkaja Singh of the State Capacity Initiative, Pranab Choudhry of NRMC Management Consultants, and Anirudh Burman, Associate Research Director and Fellow, Carnegie India, were discussants at the panel.
- In December 2022, Namita Wahi spoke at a webinar titled "Environment, Tribal Food Security and Livelihoods" organized by the 13th Odisha Environment Congress and Socratus Foundation for Collective Wisdom.
- For the months of July and August, Namita Wahi was visiting at the Centre on Law and Social Transformation in Bergen, where she is a Global Fellow.
- In June 2022, Namita Wahi gave a lecture at the Australia India Institute on policy research in India seen from the lens of the Centre for Policy Research and the Land Rights Initiative.

- In December 2022, Namita Wahi gave a lecture on "Legal Landscapes of Land in India" at the Land and Governance Winter School, Azim Premji University, Bangalore.
- In September 2022, Namita Wahi organised a panel on "One Thousand Land Laws: Land, Democracy and the Rule of Law" at the CPR Dialogues, 2022, where she moderated a dialogue between Ravi Rebbapragada (Samata), Shipra De (Landesa), Chakshu Roy (PRS Legislative Research) and Kumar Sambhav (Land Conflict Watch)

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- For the month of June 2022, Namita Wahi was a Visiting Fellow in the Laureate Programme in Comparative Constitutional Law at Melbourne Law School supported by the Kathleen Fitzpatrick endowment. Led by Professor Adrienne Stone, this programme brings together outstanding young female scholars working in the area of constitutional law from across the world.
- International Partnerships for Excellence in Research and Education (INTPART) is a multi-country collaboration to facilitate scholarly exchange between the University of Bergen and institutions in India, Africa, and North and South America. The

Land Rights Initiative is one of two collaborating institutions in India.

- Mugdha Mohapatra of the Land Rights Initiative, Asaf Ali Lone of the Urban Initiative and Debarshee Dasgupta of TREADS, attended the PhD Course at the Bergen Exchanges. Asaf submitted his paper titled *Repartitioning Identities and Urban Spaces: (Un)Bordering Muslim Identity in India*, and Mugdha submitted her paper titled *Encroachers on Forest Land: An Analysis of Judicial Attitudes towards the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006* in fulfilment of their requirements for the course.

# Sanitation



Image Source: SCI-FI Team

*CPR experts have been at the forefront of the debate on sanitation in India, particularly on designing appropriate sanitation solutions for country's rapid and often chaotic urban transition. The year 2023 marks the tenth anniversary of the Scaling City Institutions for India (SCI-FI) Initiative. In 2022, CPR won the ISC FICCI Sanitation Award for Best Non-profit Engagement Model in Sanitation: Rural and Urban for spearheading the pilot implementation of the urban-rural convergence model in Dhenkanal.*

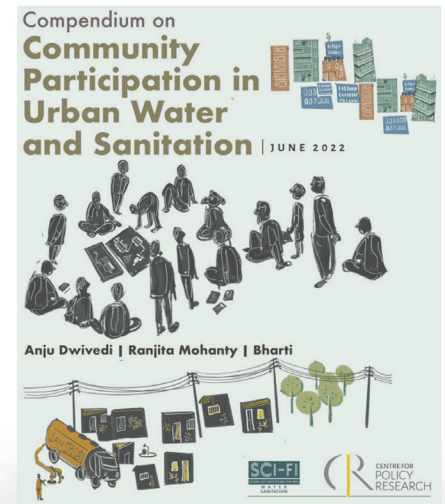
## Select Policy Engagements

- Anju Dwivedi, Abhinav Kumar and Shubhagato Dasgupta authored a research report titled *Understanding Enablers and Barriers to Social Protection of Sanitation Workers*. The report is based on primary research with sanitation workers in Dhenkanal, Odisha, to identify the enablers and barriers to availing social protection benefits (in the form of healthcare, insurance, pensions, and allowances) for sanitation workers.
- Anju Dwivedi, Tripti Singh and Abhinav Kumar from SCI-FI with Sudeshna Satpathy and Pradeep Mohanty authored a research report titled *Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Urban WASH: Linking Urban Poor to WASH Services in Odisha*.
- In September 2022, Anindita Mukherjee presented a case study with the Principal principal secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, government of Odisha, on "Learnings from Odisha's Efforts on Going beyond Sanitation: Building Water Secure and Inclusive Cities" at the International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress and Exhibition in Denmark in



September 2022. At the same event, Anju Dwivedi presented a case study of in a workshop titled “The Collaborative Approach to Resilient and Inclusive City Sanitation: Best Practices for a Multi-Stakeholder Ecosystem”.

- Anju Dwivedi, Ranjita Mohanty and Bharti from SCI-FI authored the *Compendium on Community Participation in Urban WASH* based on primary and secondary research. The role of civil society organisations (CSOs) in enabling access for the urban poor to services, demanding accountability from the government institutions and empowering communities has been well recognized, and this compendium is a collection of community-driven sanitation initiatives steered by CSOs in urban water and sanitation.
- Shubhagato Dasgupta and Neha Agarwal from SCI-FI coauthored an article titled “Experimenting with Urban–Rural Partnerships for Sustainable Sanitation in India: Learning from Practice” in the *Land* journal.
- Shubhagato Dasgupta, Anju Dwivedi and Shaivi Kulshrestha from SCI-FI contributed a case study on the urban-rural convergence of Dhenkanal on faecal sludge management in the third edition of the *Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages* of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).
- Anju Dwivedi from SCI-FI is a member of the Steering Committee of Inclusive



Sanitation constituted by the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) to support the government of Uttarakhand.

- Anindita Mukherjee from SCI-FI was elected as a steering committee members of the National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM) Alliance established in 2016 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to support safe sanitation at the national, state and city levels.
- SCI-FI continued to provide policy and implementation support to the government of Odisha to scale up urban-rural convergence across districts in the state.
- SCI-FI led the process of drafting the Odisha Inclusive Urban Sanitation Policy, with other partners in Odisha, for Housing and Urban Development Department, government of Odisha.

## Select Public Engagements

- At the 7th International Faecal Sludge Management Conference held in February 2023 in Abidjan, Anindita Mukherjee presented a paper titled *Private Sector Participation (PSP) in Faecal Sludge Management in India*, and Shubhagato Dasgupta presented a paper on *Slum Upgrading—A crucial Building Block for City-wide Inclusive Sanitation*. SCI-FI organized a side event titled “Strengthening local Data Ecosystems by Integrating City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation in South Asia” at the same conference. Anindita Mukherjee also delivered the keynote address at a session on “Collaborative Action for Inclusive Sanitation in India”. She presented at a session on “South Asia Perspectives on Strengthening Sanitation Service Delivery” hosted by Dasra and the NFSSM Alliance

- Arkaja Singh was invited to speak at a convention of sanitation workers and activists organised by the Dalit Adivasi Shakti Adhikar Manch (DASAM) and the National Alliance of People's movements in May 2022 at the Constitution Club of India, where she discussed the practical limitations of the current manual scavenging legal framework and its implementation in Delhi and called for a legal audit of Delhi's sewer management contracts.

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- SCI-FI collaborated with Water Links, an international non-profit organization, to develop a road map for regulatory reform for urban sanitation. The team supported Water Links in examining the current regulatory and governance framework for the WASH sector in Odisha and contributed their expertise to initiate the necessary interventions for the regulatory reform process in the state.
- SCI-FI collaborated with new research partners like the Sanitation Learning Hub at the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, to undertake research on gender equality and social inclusion in urban WASH. The MEDS Small Grant Fund at BMGF enabled SCI-FI to carry out research on social protection for sanitation workers.
- SCI-FI secured a grant from the BMGF to support sanitation work through the Evidence-based Research to Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Sanitation project.

# Urbanization



Image Source: thewire.in

*How can India manage its urban transformation in a manner that is inclusive, ecologically sustainable and supportive of green growth? How can policymakers track the large-scale transformation of the Indian population and economy, grapple with the processes causing it and find ways to deliver services such that all citizens can achieve their full potential?*

Over the past few decades, CPR has been closely examining the complex changes that comprise India's urban transition and the governance of its cities through a multidisciplinary lens, drawing from economics, political science, law, sociology, architecture, planning, geography, health and environmental sciences.

The Centre engages through a range of perspectives—from analysing and understanding governance structures and the delivery of public services, and how these are being affected by initiatives such as Smart Cities, the digitalization of services and datafication, to a deeper understanding and exploration of processes of economic, structural and spatial transition across different geographies, with a particular focus on non-metropolitan settlements.

## Select Policy Engagements

- Mukta Naik published an article titled "Testing the Waters: Young Women's Work and Mobile Aspirations in India's Small Cities" in the *Social Change* journal in June 2022.
- Mukta Naik authored a chapter titled "Subjectivities and Collective Lives in Gurgaon's Urban Villages" in the book *Neighbourhoods and Neighbourliness in Urban South Asia* edited by Sadan Jha and Dev Nath Pathak (Routledge India, 2022).
- Mukta Naik has been part of the advisory groups of research projects and a member of the

Advisory Board of the Jharkhand Migration Survey being implemented by the Policy and Development Advisory Group (PDAG) since October 2022.

- Shubhagato Dasgupta, Anindita Mukherjee and Baisakhi Sarkar Dhar from SCI-FI authored a research report titled *An Approach to Affordable Housing Strategy in Bhubaneswar, Odisha* to devise a strategy to achieve affordable housing for BDA under Odisha's Policy for Housing for All in Urban Areas, 2015, outlining the risks, challenges and mechanisms to mitigate the same.
- Véronique Dupont, in collaboration with Shankare Gowda, pursued her research on subaltern urbanism with a follow-up study of the slum redevelopment project of Kathputli Colony in Delhi, the first project of that kind launched by the Delhi Development Authority in a public-private partnership.
- In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Véronique Dupont and Shankare Gowda conducted two series of interviews to assess the multidimensional impact of the sanitary and economic crisis on displaced slum families and examine the responses of the local communities, with a focus on the condition of families in transit camps. The results of this research was published as a chapter titled "COVID-19 Responses of Displaced Slum Dwellers in Delhi. Who to Trust and to Rely on in Times of Sanitary and Economic Crisis?" in *COVID-19 Responses of Local Communities Around the World: Exploring Trust in the Context of Risk and Fear*, edited by K.E. Kuah, G. Guilheux and F. Lim (Routledge, 2022)
- Marie-Hélène Zérah, Gaurav Mittal, Khaliq Parkar, Kanchan Gandhi, and Barathi Nakkeeran conducted qualitative fieldwork in Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab in 2022 and 2023

Mukta Naik in conversation on "Cities of Delhi: an Overview of CPR's Multidisciplinary Enquiry into Delhi" at the CPR Dialogues 2022



- to investigate the ground-level realities of the Indian government's Smart Cities Mission..
- Pushpa Pathak and Marie-Hélène Zérah coauthored a chapter titled "Indian Smart Cities: The Challenges Ahead" in the book *ASEAN and India: The Way Forward*, edited by Tommy Koh, Hernaikh Singh, Moe Thuzar (World Scientific, Singapore, 2022).
  - Marie-Hélène Zérah and S. Das co-authored an article titled "Solar Rooftop Systems and the Urban Transition: Shall the Twain Ever Meet? Interrogations from Rewari, India" in the *Journal of Urban Technology* in February 2023.
  - Partha Mukhopadhyay and Neelanjan Sircar published an article titled "Proximity and Precarity in Urban Governance" in *Seminar* in March 2023, focusing on two key axes of difference with respect to rural governance—proximity and precarity in order to understand the incapacity of urban governance to make a difference in the lives of citizens.
  - Asaf Ali Lone published an essay titled "Housing and Spatial Segregation: Snippets from Aurangabad" in the *India Housing Report* in June 2022.
  - SCI-FI is part of the drafting committee to support the Patna Municipal Corporation and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in drafting the Sustainable and Inclusive Policy for Informal Settlements (slums) in Bihar.
  - Aman Srivastava, Mandakini Chandra and Partha Mukhopadhyay published a policy brief titled "Realising India's Emissions Intensity Pledge: Data Needs and Short-Term Actions" supported by the British High Commission, New Delhi, under the UK-India Economic Policy Program in 2022.
  - Partha Mukhopadhyay published a policy brief titled "Asset Monetisation: Matching Monetisation Models to Revenue Streams" supported by the British High Commission, New Delhi, under the UK-India Economic Policy Program in 2022.
  - Gaurav Mittal, Khaliq Parkar, Marie-Hélène Zérah and Barathi Nakkeeran organized a two-day international conference titled "Analog Pasts and Digital Futures: Reflections on India's Smart Cities Mission" in New Delhi, which included a panel discussion involving smart city policy experts and Mr Kunal Kumar, the Joint Secretary and Mission Director, Smart Cities Mission, Government of India in January 2023.
  - the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, in December 2022.
  - Antarin Chakrabarty, from the SCI FI team, delivered a talk titled "The City and the Power User—How to Use Computing Effectively to Tackle Complex Urban Problems: Habitat Practice Colloquium" at the School of Human Settlements, XIM University, Bhubaneswar, in December 2022.
  - Mukta Naik delivered an expert talk titled "Housing Paradigms: Study of Demography, Migration, Social Aspects of Migration, Gentrification, Ghettoization, Housing and Slums and Its Effect on Urbanisation and Architecture" in February 2023 at the KMEA College of Architecture, Ernakulam.
  - An event titled "Round Table on State-Led Initiatives on Internal Migration" was organized in collaboration with UNICEF and IMAKE in December 2022 in New Delhi, where representatives from six states presented good practices on inclusion of internal migrants, especially women and children.
  - Mukta Naik participated in the National Consultation on Labour Migration Governance in India in July 2022 organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in New Delhi.
  - Asaf Ali Lone participated two iterations of the National Pre-Session for Universal Periodic Review (UPR) IV (September 2022 and March 2023) organized

### Select Public Engagements

- Anindita Mukherjee, from the SCI FI team, delivered a lecture on "Slums and Civic Amenities: 18th Round of Phase-III, Mid-Career Training Programme" at



CPR-UNICEF-IMAKE Round Table on State Led Initiatives for Families and Children Affected by Migration

affordable, inclusive and resilient in Asia and the Pacific.

- SCI FI, in partnership with RICS School of Built Environment and Amity University, Noida, co-hosted the International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment from in February 2023 at Amity University.
- The CPR-AFD-NIUA partnership for the Smart Cities project is being implemented by the IRD in collaboration with CPR and the NIUA. It is supported by the French Development Agency (AFD).

by the Secretariat of the Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR) at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

- Mukta Naik presented a paper titled *Governing Migrants in Disempowered Cities: A View from India* at the Cities and Human Mobility Research Collaborative Vienna Research Symposium held in March 2023. This symposium was organized by the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility at The New School and the Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna.
- Kanhu Charan Pradhan taught a course on demographic transition and migration at the Institutional Training for HAS and Allied Services in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh in August 2022.
- Kanhu Charan Pradhan presented a paper titled "Internal Migration in India – Drivers and Policy Responses"

organized by the J-PAL South Asia Conference in Delhi in June 2022

- Asaf Ali Lone chaired a four paper-panel titled 'Borderlands and Exile' in the online workshop "Social and Political Responses to the Missing and Dead: Conflict, Migration and Beyond", which was co-convened by the Australian National University and University of York in December 2022.

## Partnerships and Collaborations

- SCI-FI supported the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to organize the first Asia-Pacific Housing Conference (AHC) 2022: Making Housing, Affordable, Inclusive and Resilient in November 2022. This two-day online knowledge-sharing event aims to consolidate and promote solutions to make housing

- The research on "Urbanization, Citizenship and Services in India" is part of the long-term collaboration between the CPR and the French National Institute of Research for sustainable Development (IRD).
- The Initiative on Cities, Economy, and Society (ICES) at CPR is part of the Cities and Human Mobilities Collaborative anchored at the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility, a global network deepening research on how cities can respond to migrant needs and influence migration policy. Mukta Naik has presented CPR in these meetings and dialogues.

# Water



Image Source: <https://climate.nasa.gov>

*CPR's work on water sits at the intersection of law, institutions and policy. Several experts have studied both the right to water as well as the institutional design challenges of water sharing across states. The Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies & Development Studies (TREADS) programme carries out research to inform policy thinking and institutional transformation on questions of boundary political ecologies, river water governance and development studies*

## Select Policy Engagements

- Srinivas Chokkakula edited a collection of essays and cases on water federalism titled *India's Water Federalism: New Perspectives for Public Policy*.
- Srinivas Chokkakula authored an article titled "Interstate Rivers Integrating India" for the *Water Digest* magazine. The article showcases the pilot Transboundary Rivers, Ecologies and Development Studies (TREADS) knowledge portal focusing on India's interstate conflict and cooperation mapping and elaborates plans for scaling it up as a portal.
- Nimmi Kurian authored a chapter "Of Flows and Flawed Frames: What Can

- We Learn (and Unlearn) from the International Experience on Floods?" in the book *Ecosystems and Resource Choices: Lessons from the Kerala Floods* edited by R. K. Suresh Kumar, P. Suresh, Kumar, P. Sukumaran Nair (Achutha Menon Foundation, 2022).
- Arkaja Singh co-edited a special issue of the journal *Water* titled *Water and Sanitation as Human Rights: Have They Strengthened Marginalized Peoples' Claim for Access?* with Dr Bruce Wilson and Dr Daniel Brinks in September 2022. Arkaja Singh also co-authored an article titled "The Decentred Construction of Global Rights: Lessons from the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation" Dr Brinks and Dr Wilson for the special issue.
  - Rakshita Goyal, Arkaja Singh and Srinivas Chokkakula coauthored a chapter titled "Water Federalism: Encased in Environmental Lawmaking" in *India's Water Federalism: New Perspectives for Public Policy*, a book edited by Srinivas Chokkula and published by Asian Confluence and the Hanns Seidel Foundation India in 2022.
  - Shaivi Kulshrestha, Abhinav Kumar, Isha Khurana, Anindita Mukherjee and Shubhagato Dasgupta from the SCI-FI authored a policy brief titled "Muddling Through: Water Quality Monitoring Data Systems". This policy brief unpacks how river and groundwater pollution is monitored in India, especially to understand the effect of sanitation on river and groundwater health.
  - Anju Dwivedi, Abhinav Kumar and Andrew Desouza from SCI-FI wrote an article titled "Women Are Pioneering Inclusive Water and Sanitation in Urban Poor Settlements" on the *India Water Portal*. This article highlights the role of women in self help groups and of the Slum Dwellers Association in Odisha to provide basic services including water and sanitation in urban poor settlements.
  - SCI-FI is part of the Rural WASH Partners Forum constituted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to support water and sanitation programmes. Here, SCI-FI's role is to support the scaling up of the urban-rural convergence at the national level.
  - Srinivas Chokkakula was involved in two key engagements with the Hon'ble Union Minister, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India:
    - a. The Supreme Court and Interstate River Water Disputes: The findings of this research, which led to the monograph "The Bar and the Binding", were presented to the Minister and the senior officers of the ministry. Among other things, the research engages with the Supreme Court's unprecedented decisions around the Cauvery River water dispute and its implications for the effectiveness of the Interstate River Water Disputes Amendment Bill, 2019, under Parliament's consideration.
    - b. Dams and Society: As a follow-up to the views he shared as member of Drafting Committee on the Draft National Water Policy, 2020, Srinivas Chokkakula was invited to present his views to the ministry. This eventually led to a series of interactions, and a proposal for a research programme on the intersection of dams and society was presented and submitted. The proposed programme aims at addressing the skewed knowledge production and shaping public discourse about the paradigm of storage structures for India's long-term water security.
  - In September 2022, Srinivas Chokkakula was an invited expert for a consultation of the National Security Council Secretariat on India's national water security.

## Select Public Engagements

- Nimmi Kurian was the convenor and moderator for an international panel titled "Geopolitics of Transboundary Waters" at the 15th All India Conference of China Studies organized by the Institute of Chinese Studies in February 2023.

- In June 2022, Arkaja Singh of State Capacity Initiative and Namita Wahi of Land Rights Initiative participated in the GNHRE-UNEP School for Human Rights and the Environment in a moderated discussion with the authors of the special issue on *Water and Sanitation as Human Rights: Have They Strengthened Marginalized Peoples' Claim for Access?* convened by Jackie Dugard.
- Arkaja Singh and Namita Wahi were invited to present their work in the School for Human Rights and the Environment hosted by the Global Network for Human Rights and the Environment and the UN Environment Programme, held by the Central European University in Vienna and the University of Southampton in June 2022.
- In August 2022, Arkaja Singh spoke at a panel titled "The Human Right to Water v. the Rights of Water?" at the Bergen Exchanges along with Bruce Wilson, John McNeish, Catalina Vallejo and Evelyn Villareal.
- Anindita Mukherjee presented a case study with the principal secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, government of Odisha, on "Learnings from Odisha's Efforts on Going Beyond Sanitation: Building Water Secure and Inclusive Cities" at the International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress and Exhibition in Denmark in September 2022.
- Anju Dwivedi, from the SCI-FI team, was a speaker at Time for Change: Gender Equality and Inclusion in Water and Sanitation Sector Workplaces", an event organized by IWA, UTS (Institute for Sustainable Futures) and Water for Women in December 2022.
- Srinivas Chokkakula was invited to be a member of the Governing Council at the New Delhi Centre of the World Water Council.
- Srinivas Chokkakula spent a semester at the University of Massachusetts (U Mass), Amherst, USA, as the Inaugural Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Chair in Public Policy in the fall of 2022. He taught a graduate seminar course, 'Water Wars?' besides pursuing research interests on a comparison of federal river water governance in the USA and India.
- Debarshee Dasgupta, Research Associate, TREADS, was selected as a Fellow of the Young South Asian Fellow Network of the Hanns Seidel Foundation. He attended an exchange programme in Germany in September 2022. He was part of a cohort of 18 young leaders from South Asian countries.

## Partnership and Collaborations

- By the terms of the MoU signed between the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and TREADS at CPR, the NMCG sanctioned three research projects engaging with: (a) Reimagining the Master Plan instrument for protecting and managing urban waterbodies; (b) Interstate cooperation for river rejuvenation; (3) Learnings from European experiences for the Namami Gange Programme.



## CPR Governing Body

(As on 31st March 2023)

### **Dr Meenakshi Gopinath - Chairperson**

Director, Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP)

### **Mr Subodh Bhargava - Member**

Former Chairman, Tata Telecommunications Ltd.

### **Mr Rakesh Bharti Mittal - Member**

(till Dec 2022)

Vice Chairman, Bharti Enterprises

### **Mr Shyam Saran - Member**

Former Foreign Secretary and Honorary Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research

### **Ms Vinita Bali - Member**

Independent Director and Strategy Adviser

### **Ms Rama Bijapurkar - Member**

(till March 2023)

Independent Management Consultant and Professor of Management Practice, IIM Ahmedabad

### **Late Mr Chandrashekhar Dasgupta - Member**

(till March 2023)

Former Ambassador and Historian

### **Mr Shyam Divan - Member**

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India

### **Member - Secretary - Member**

Indian Council of Social Science Research

### **Mr Rohit Bhasin - Member**

Former Partner, PwC and Independent Director

### **Ms Yamini Aiyar- Member-Secretary**

President and Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research

## CPR Executive committee

(As on 31st March 2023)

### **Dr Meenakshi Gopinath - Chairperson**

Director, Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP)

### **Mr Shyam Saran - Member**

Honorary Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research

### **Mr Subodh Bhargava - Member**

Former Chairman, Tata Telecommunications Ltd.

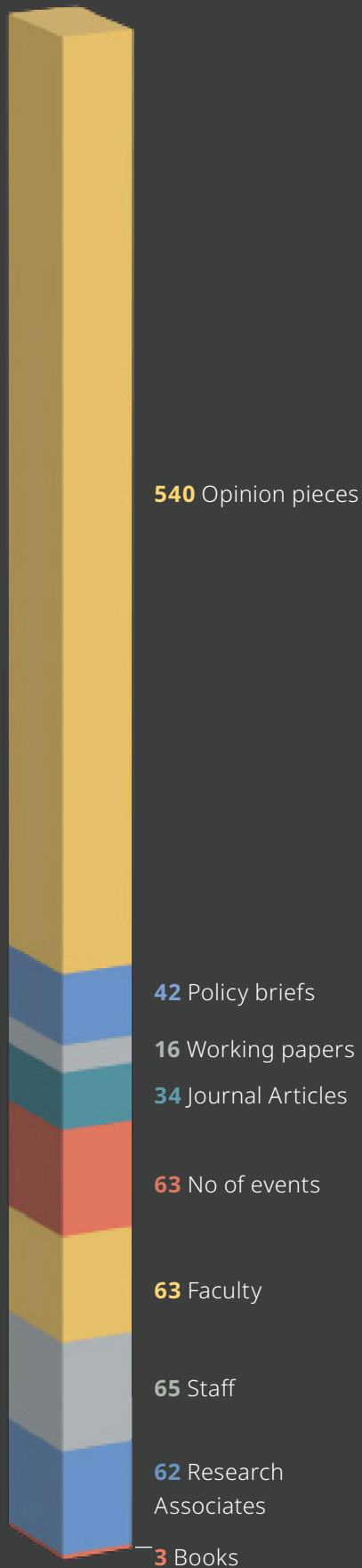
### **Ms Vinita Bali - Member**

Independent Director and Strategy Adviser

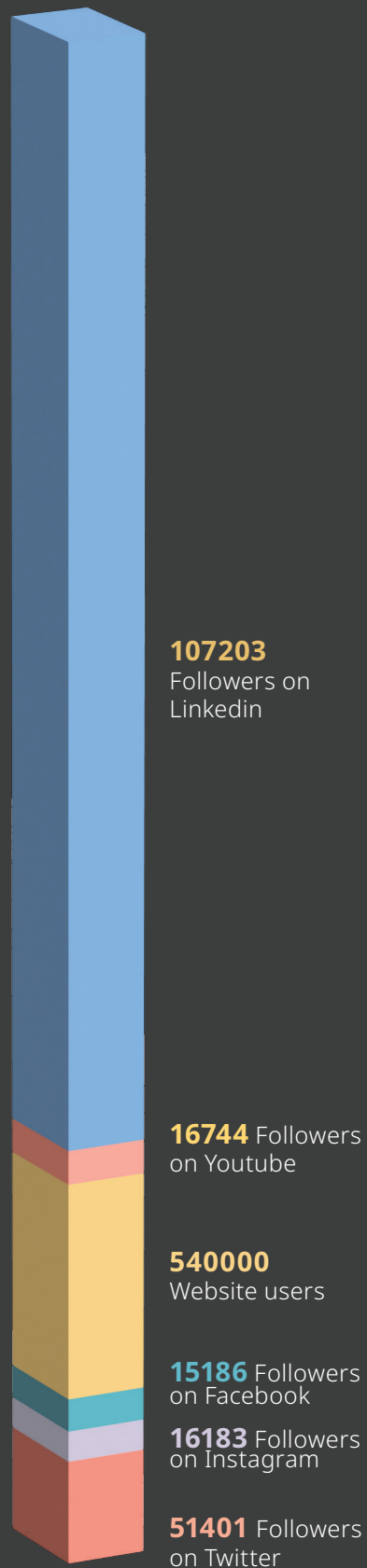
### **Ms Yamini Aiyar - Member**

President & Chief Executive, Centre for Policy Research

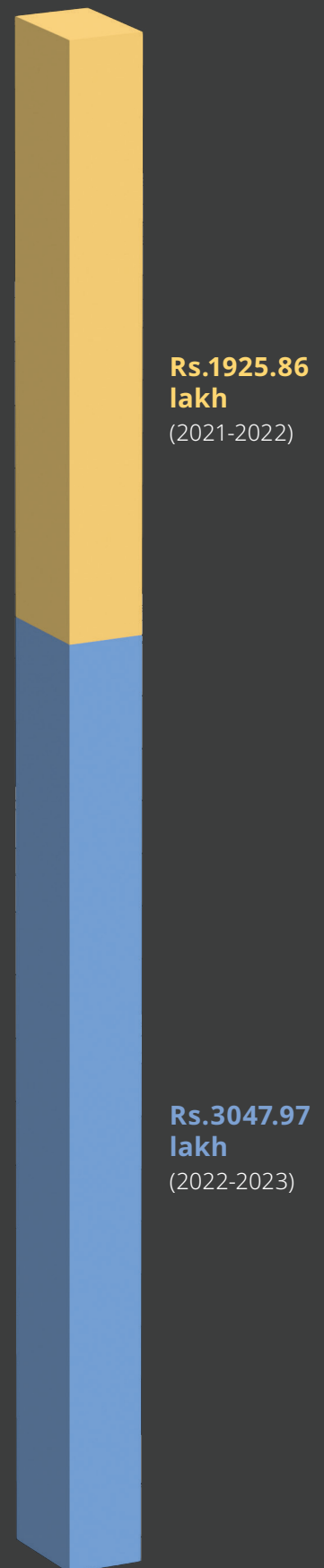
## CPR@2022



## Digital Reach



## Funding



## Major Granting Organizations

1. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

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2. Ford Foundation

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3. Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

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4. Government of Andhra Pradesh

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5. Government of Meghalaya

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6. Hewlett Foundation

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7. Indian Council of Social Science Research

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8. MacArthur Foundation

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9. Namati

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10. National Mission for Clean Ganga

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11. Oak Foundation

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12. Piramal Swasthya Management and Research Institute


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13. Rohini Nilekani

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14. US Department of State

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15. World Resources Institute



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